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SAUDI ARABIA | IN FOCUS

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April 29, 2009

SAUDI ARABIA

Advanced Technologies Forum held in Riyadh

Minister of Education Prince Faisal bin Abdullah bin Muhammed Al-Saud inaugurated the "Advanced Technologies Forum (ATF) 2009" in Riyadh on April 26. The event, held under the patronage of King Abdullah, was organized by the King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology (KACST) and featured 45 renowned speakers from around the world.

During his remarks, the Education Minister praised King Abdullah, Crown Prince Sultan and Second Deputy Prime Minister Prince Nayef for their support of educational and technological endeavors. He cited the establishment of the King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST); the announcement by KACST of \$2.14 billion of new investments in science, technology and innovation in the Kingdom; and the projects of the King Abdulaziz and His Companions Foundation for Giftedness and Creativity. Prince Faisal noted, these efforts have made it possible for the Kingdom to achieve concrete, significant progress in the building of advanced industries and a knowledge-based society.

SAUDI ARABIA - U.S.

Prince Turki speaks at New York University and Cornell University

Prince Turki Al-Faisal, Chairman of the Riyadh-based King Faisal Centre for Research and Islamic Studies, highlighted Saudi Arabia's efforts to bring about peace in the Middle East during an April 22 address in New York. Delivering a lecture at New York University entitled "Horizons of Peace in the Middle East," Prince Turki cited the late King Fahd's peace plan and King Abdullah's current peace initiative as evidence of the Kingdom's efforts to facilitate peace in the region. He noted that King Fahd's plan was approved by all Arab countries in 1982, while King Abdullah's initiative gained the endorsement of the Arab world in 2002.

The following day, Prince Turki delivered a lecture at Cornell University entitled "What We Expect from America: A Saudi Perspective." Prince Turki stressed the depth and strength of Saudi-U.S. relations, which have always been based on respect and common interests. He highlighted the significant roles being played by both countries at the regional and international levels.

FOREIGN AID

King gifts Pakistan with 150 tons of dates

Saudi Ambassador to Pakistan Ali Asiri handed over 150 tons of dates to the Pakistani government on April 23, as a gift from the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz to the people of Pakistan. The handover ceremony took place at the Foreign Ministry in Islamabad. Speaking on the occasion, Undersecretary of the Ministry for Middle East Affairs Omar Sherzai expressed Pakistan's appreciation of the Kingdom's continuing humanitarian support.

HEALTH

Saudi Arabia free of swine influenza

Minister of Health Dr. Abdullah Al-Rabeeah announced in an April 27 press statement that no suspected cases of swine influenza have been reported in the Kingdom. However, the Ministry of Health has bolstered cautionary measures to prevent the appearance of the disease and, in the event that those measures fail, to ensure the availability of drugs for treatment. In addition, the Health Ministry has issued invitations for a GCC conference to be held on May 9, 2009 to discuss the prevention of the disease. Experts from the World Health Organization (WHO) have also been invited to participate.



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